As a subscriber to Monitor you can download our
Windmill data acquisition software with LabIML
for free. LabIML is a universal driver for instruments
that send or accept ASCII messages over RS232. It
automatically feeds data from the instruments to
Windows application software. You could, for example,
show readings from a GPS receiver and a sonar in an
Excel spreadsheet, or data from an electronic balance
in Windmill's own Logger program (also free).

To download the free software go to
http://www.windmill.co.uk/jsarrdms.htm

We also offer an updated serial driver, COMIML.
Details of this are at
http://www.windmill.co.uk/comiml.html

_____

_____

Windmill Notes: Parsing Data

_____

Windmill software lets you use your PC to collect data
from instruments with RS232 ports. A Windmill user
recently asked why he was unable to extract information
from his data string by entering several Ignore commands.

He was using the Ignore Until Character command. This
tells Windmill to ignore everything in the data string
until one of the characters specified arrives. The next
action takes place on this character. So, if you
repeatedly told Windmill to ignore everything until the
next comma (intending to skip several commas) it would
get stuck on the first comma it found. You could
instead choose to skip the comma before carrying on, or
use the Search command.

For more tips on parsing messages see
http://www.windmill.co.uk/parse.html

For more on the Windmill serial drivers see
http://www.windmill.co.uk/serial.html
http://www.windmill.co.uk/comiml.html

_____

_____

Excel Corner: Running a Macro from Several Worksheets

_____

Imagine you had an Excel workbook containing three
sheets of data. Sheet 1 holds September's data, Sheet 2
October's and Sheet 3 November's. You create and run a
macro in Sheet 1 which works perfectly. You then run it
from Sheet 2 to try to analyse October's figures, but
the macro persists in going back to Sheet 1. What to do?

The problem is that the macro specifies "Sheet 1", for
example: Sheets("Sheet1").Range("A1:B49").

You need to edit the macro and set it instead to work
on the currently active sheet.

1. At the start of your macro insert a line of code
like this
Let Thisworksheet = ActiveSheet.Name
Excel gets the name of the currently active sheet
and stores it as Thisworksheet.

2. Where "Sheet1" is referenced, replace it with
Thisworksheet.
For example
Sheets(Thisworksheet).Range("A1:B49")

You can now run your macro from any of the worksheets.

For more tips on using Excel for data acquisition and
analysis see
http://www.windmill.co.uk/excel.html
http://www.windmill.co.uk/xlchart.html

_____

_____

DAQ News Roundup

_____

Welcome to our roundup of the latest data acquisition
and control news. If you would like to receive more
timely DAQ news updates then grab our RSS newsfeed
at http://www.windmillsoft.com/monitor.xml. Read
http://www.windmill.co.uk/newsfeed.html for notes
on how to display the news on your own web site,
read it via e-mail or through a newsfeed viewer.

Scientists Campaign for Pro-Science President
Concerned by the US government's stance on the
environment, stem cell research and evolution,
a group of scientists are campaigning to stop
the politicization of science where the
opinions of scientists are hushed up by
political appointees.
Source: SEA
http://www.sefora.org/serendipity/

Google Launches Code Search
Google now lets you search publicly accessible
source code hosted on the Internet. It claims
that this will help programmers design new
software projects, test code and fix bugs. If it
finds your code, and you don't want it to, you
need to edit your web's robots.txt file.
Source: Google
http://www.google.com/codesearch

US Law could Admit Many More Foreign Hi-Tech Workers
Legislation pending before Congress "would admit
foreign computing and engineering workers in
numbers much greater than historical trends or
casual assumptions about future employment levels"
according to a recent study from Georgetown
University,
commissioned by IEEE-USA.
Source: IEEE-USA
http://www.ieeeusa.org/communications/releases/2006/092706.asp

WHO issues targets to cut air pollution
For the first time, the World Health Organization
has issued global targets for cutting air pollution,
and it says at least 2 million people could be saved
from early death each year if countries meet them.
Good news not only for sufferers of air pollution,
but also for the companies making pollution
monitoring equipment.
Source: New Scientist